

# Policy Work In Progress



May 2017

Invigorating business

Title	Date	Synopsis
<b>Tax administration</b> Meeting with Office of State Revenue	2 May 2017	NSWBC attended the OSR Liaison meeting with other small business representatives. NSWBC gave an update on the small business outlook and updated representatives on its <a href="#">payroll tax survey</a> which indicates that tax administration costs increase by around \$10,000 once businesses become liable for payroll tax.  <b>Policy Contact – Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b>
<b>Tax</b> Taking on Tax Phase 2 Roundtable	3 May 2017	NSWBC organised and hosted a property tax reform roundtable, with the Hon Dr Craig Emerson and KPMG representatives, to advance phase two of the Thinking Business project looking into replacing stamp duty with a broad-based land tax. The roundtable gathered senior representatives from other industry associations, think tanks and social groups to discuss reform in this area.  <b>Policy Contact – Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b>
<b>Energy</b> Meeting with the NSW Minister for Energy, the Hon Don Harwin	8 May 2017	NSWBC met with the Minister for Energy, the Hon Don Harwin, to discuss energy issues facing businesses, such as affordability and security, and to discuss policy solutions to address these problems. NSWBC advocated the need for the NSW Government to finalise its Strategic Lands framework to provide a basis for allowing more gas development in NSW, and for the NSW Government to work cooperatively with the Federal Government to ensure secure, reliable and affordable energy.  <b>Policy Contact – Larissa Cassidy 9458 7359</b>
<b>Budget</b> Release of the 2017-18 Federal Budget	9 May 2017	NSWBC attended the stakeholder lockup for the 2017-18 Budget and welcomed a number of the Budget's positive measures for business. NSWBC called on the Senate to pass the Budget as presented by the Treasurer. However, concern was also expressed that the Parliament has been unable to balance the Budget through expenditure restraint and that new taxes will be required to maintain a credible pathway to surplus.  <b>Policy Contact – Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b>
<b>NSW Apprenticeship Compact</b> Meeting of signatories	10 May 2017	NSWBC is a signatory to the NSW Apprenticeship Compact. The Compact seeks to rapidly increase apprenticeship and traineeship participation through collaboration between the Department of Industry and peak industry associations. NSWBC joined the other Apprenticeship Compact signatories to hear from the Department on its work to deliver on the Compact targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>VET Repositioning Strategy</b> will be launched in June. NSWBC advised of the need to actively involve employers so that the Strategy achieves overarching objective of boosting engagement in VET pathways.</li> <li>• Industry and Education are actively collaborating on strategies to strengthen the <b>delivery of VET in school</b>. These may include working with a select group of principals are willing to trial a trades focus at their school, including a vocationally centred HSC.</li> <li>• A new <b>apprenticeship 'front end'</b> is being trialled with the automotive, construction, horticulture and hospitality sectors. The</li> </ul>

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		<p>front end delivers a fast tracked apprenticeship following an intensive foundation and basic vocational skills course which involves on-the-job work experience.</p> <p>The strategies take up many elements of the reform program proposed in NSWBC's apprenticeship research, a fact acknowledged by the Department. NSWBC will continue to work with the Department to deliver the commitments made under the Compact and increase engagement in apprenticeships and traineeships.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Rebecca Burdick 02 9458 7267</b></p>
<p><b>WHS and Workers Compensation</b> Meeting with the Office of NSW Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet</p>	10 May 2017	<p>NSWBC met with Edward Yap, Senior Policy Adviser of the Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations about the need for all employers to be able to easily understand the formula that underpins the workers' compensation premium payable each year; how the Chamber will be conducting a member survey in order to collect and collate member feedback on issues that they are experiencing with the workers compensation system; and the need, in the interests of transparency, for the Chamber to obtain more detailed information from on the performance of the scheme from icare.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact - Elizabeth Greenwood 02 9458 7078</b></p>
<p><b>Jobs and skills development</b> Meeting with Secretary, Department of Industry</p>	12 May 2017	<p>NSWBC met with Simon Smith, Secretary of the Department of Industry, to discuss initiatives to reform vocational education and training (VET) and lift industry engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program:</b> The program aims to capitalise on the record public infrastructure pipeline by boosting the number of skilled construction workers. Three demonstration pilots have now been established, including Sydney Metro, Lismore Base Hospital and WestConnex and early indications are that the targets for apprenticeships and youth employment will be met or exceeded. Information on the program can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Smart, Skilled and Hired:</b> The 2016/17 State Budget included \$100m for an initiative to boost youth employment in the construction and disability sectors. The Department is assessing responses to the Request for Proposals to deliver the program. A decision will be announced in June 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Western Sydney Defence and Aerospace Precinct:</b> The Department is working with the Greater Sydney Commission and City Deal team to secure maximum economic benefit from development of the land surrounding Badgerys Creek Airport.</li> </ul> <p>NSWBC will continue to engage with senior Departmental representatives to ensure public initiatives actively involve industry and deliver the skills outcomes needed by employers.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Rebecca Burdick 02 9458 7267</b></p>
<p><b>Annual wage review</b> Submission to questions from the Fair Work Commission</p>	12 May 2017	<p>NSWBC/ABI provided a supplementary submission to the Annual wage review in response to follow-up questions issued by the Fair Work Commission.</p>

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		<p>This included a response to the Panel's question about survey data provided in the initial submission and a reaction to the latest CPI data which, while jumping higher than previous readings, was below market expectations.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b></p>
<p><b>Industry Engagement in VET</b> Manufacturing &amp; Engineering Services ITAB</p>	17 May 2017	<p>NSWBC is represented on the Manufacturing Skills Australia Industry Training Advisory Body (MSA ITAB). At the May meeting, NSWBC gave a presentation on the findings and recommendations of the recent Thinking Business report, <a href="#">Laying the Foundations for Apprenticeship Reform</a>. MSA ITAB members were positive in their feedback and noted the NSW Government will make public the results of the review of the apprenticeship system in the coming weeks. Members affirmed key findings of the review, particularly the urgent need to strengthen the delivery of VET in school (including school-based apprenticeships) and publicise the career outcomes vocational pathways to work can achieve. NSWBC will continue to inform and engage with MSA ITAB members on the Chamber's advocacy in skills.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Rebecca Burdick 02 9458 7267</b></p>
<p><b>Energy</b> Submission on exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of Narrabri Gas Project</p>	22 May 2017	<p>NSWBC provided a <a href="#">submission</a> supporting the development of the Narrabri Gas Project. NSWBC argued the Project would deliver significant benefits to the state, primarily through potentially providing up to 50% of NSW's gas demand which will help address the pricing and lack of availability issues currently facing NSW gas users. The Project will also generate local jobs and potentially attract new industry to the region. The EIS also concludes that the Project will adequately manage any potential impacts on the environment and community. Based on these findings, NSWBC supports the Project.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Larissa Cassidy 9458 7359</b></p>
<p><b>NDIS</b> Meeting with NSW Small Business Commissioner</p>	24 May 2017	<p>NSWBC met with NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs to discuss the Disability Sector Scale Up (DDSU) program. DDSU aims to assist businesses, workers, and local communities with maximising economic opportunities from the NDIS rollout. The program will have three key streams: business acceleration grants, small business advisory services to new entrants in the market and supporting indigenous people and businesses participating in the NDIS. NSWBC will continue to be engaging with Government on the program and will share information with members once funding rounds for grants are opened. For further information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Luke Aitken 9458 7582</b></p>
<p><b>Skills</b> Workforce Skills Survey</p>	26 May 2017	<p>NSWBC has published the results of its inaugural <b>Workforce Skills Survey</b>. The Survey involved a detail assessment of the employer experience of/attitude concerning skills shortages, apprenticeships and youth unemployment. More than 800 businesses responded to the Survey, with strong involvement from members in regional NSW. The Survey found that the skills shortages reported by employers equate to a shortfall of 54,000 jobs statewide. The Survey attracted a high level of media interest, including a feature article in the Sydney Morning Herald (<a href="#">here</a>), coverage on Sky News and interviews across a range of radio and regional media outlets. NSWBC will use the results of the Survey to guide its advocacy in favour of initiatives to ensure</p>

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		<p>employers have access to the skilled workforce necessary to grow their business and a flourishing economy overall. The Survey will be repeated annually and the data gathered in the inaugural report will be used as a baseline for analysing trends in future iterations. The Survey summary report can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> and NSWBC's media release <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Rebecca Burdick 02 9458 7267/Laurence Raedelli 02 9458 7913</b></p>
<p><b>Tourism</b> Meeting with Minister for Tourism Adam Marshall</p>	26 May 2017	<p>NSW Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Adam Marshall MP attended a meeting of the Tourism Advisory Council. It was a good opportunity to introduce the Minister to the work of the TAC as well as discuss issues identified in the TAC's <a href="#">Mid Term Report Card</a>. Members emphasised in their discussions the need to invest further in regional tourism product, to progress the roll out of destination management networks and reducing red tape burden on operators.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Luke Aitken 9458 7582</b></p>
<p><b>Technology</b> Google Digital Garage</p>	26 May 2017	<p>Together with Balmain Rozelle, Leichhardt and Annandale local chambers NSWBC partnered with Google to deliver a Digital Garage Training event. The digital garage helps small business learn more about google products and the benefits they can bring in terms of business productivity. The event itself brings together SMEs and provides them with opportunities to participate in training with google products. Further information on the event and on the digital garage can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Luke Aitken 9458 7582</b></p>
<p><b>Budget</b> Pre-Budget Briefing with NSW Treasurer and Leader of the Opposition</p>	26 & 29 May 2017	<p>NSWBC briefed the Treasurer and Leader of the Opposition (and Shadow Treasurer) on the Chamber's priorities ahead of the 2017-18 NSW Budget. This provided an opportunity to reaffirm priorities outlined in NSWBC's <a href="#">pre-Budget submission</a> including tax reform, payroll tax relief, regional infrastructure, skills and education and regulation reform. The meetings were positive with NSWBC able to engage with both sides of politics on our policy agenda as they commence preparations leading up to the 2019 election.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Luke Aitken 9458 7582 / Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b></p>
<p><b>Small business policy</b> Meeting with Commonwealth Treasury</p>	30 May 2017	<p>NSWBC met with Commonwealth Treasury's small business area to discuss small business policy issues of interest to NSWBC members. This included reactions to Budget measures as well as other challenges facing small businesses in NSW.</p> <p><b>Policy Contact – Mark Frost 02 9458 7259</b></p>

## Upcoming

Release of the Finkel Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market – 9 June 2017

Submission due to NSW Review of the Regulatory Policy Framework – 19 June 2017

NSW Budget 2017/18 - 20 June 2017

Submissions due to ACCC Inquiry into retail electricity supply and pricing – 30 June 2017

Submission due to Productivity Commission review of GST distribution – 30 June 2017